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JAN 02 2018

FCC Mailroom

December 21, 2017

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

ACCEPTED/FILED

JAN 19 2018

Dear Chairman Pai:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Thank you for all the work you have done during your first year as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Coming from rural states, we both know the importance of our local broadband providers to providing quality broadband connections in Montana and across the nation. That is why it is important that programs at the FCC, which help our local providers, are properly funded.

For these reasons, I urge you to fully fund the Alternative-Connect America Model (A-CAM) portion of the universal service fund high-cost program before the end of the year so that more Montanans can receive access to broadband.

On October 31, I signed a bipartisan letter urging the FCC to take steps to address the USF budget shortfall so we can achieve our shared national broadband goals and close the digital divide. Fully funding the A-CAM is an important step towards achieving these goals. In addition, I urge you to move forward with evaluating the universal service fund high-cost program rules for rural broadband providers that are not participating in the A-CAM plan.

Thank you for your consideration in addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator

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